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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses shock and concern at recent murders in El Salvador of members of FMLN and ARENA party; calls on authorities to take all necessary measures to bring those responsible to justice; Secretary-General to send mission to country next week to assess situation on ground.

+ Security Council renews mandate of ONUMOZ for six months, subject to review within 90 days; requests reports by Secretary-General every three months thereafter; authorizes him to proceed with selection and deployment of 128 United Nations police observers.

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted yesterday, approves continued presence of UNOMIG until 31 January 1994; mandate not to be extended beyond then unless it will aid peace process.

+ Secretary-General proposes programme budget for 1994-1995 totaling $2,749 million, reflecting real growth of 1 per cent from 1992-1993; seeks stronger political, humanitarian affairs, development and administrative capabilities; United Nations Controller says Organization is in serious financial crisis.

+ Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNHCR and Government of Myanmar to facilitate return of refugees from Bangladesh.

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The Security Council this afternoon expressed shock and concern at the violent deaths in recent days in El Salvador of two leaders and other members of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) and one member of the Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) party. In a statement read out by its President, Jose Luis Jésus (Cape Verde), the Council noted that the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) had referred in its last two reports to what appeared to be a pattern of politically motivated murders. It described the development as all the more serious in the light of the upcoming electoral process and insisted that the violence had to stop.

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The Council called on the authorities in El Salvador to take all necessary measures to ensure that those responsible for the killings were promptly brought to justice, so as to prevent a future recurrence of such events. It welcomed the technical cooperation offered by Member States to assist in the investigation of the murders. The statement went on to note the Secretary-General's observation in his latest report on El Salvador that there appeared to be a resurgence of illegal armed groups and endorsed his decision to direct the Human Rights Division of ONUSAL to work with the El Salvador Human Rights Prosecutor to help the Government carry out a thorough investigation of such groups.

The Council underlined the importance of the full and timely implementation of the Peace Accords and expressed concern about delays in the phasing out of the National Police and the full deployment of the National Civil Police, and in the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

In a related development, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has decided to send a mission to El Salvador next week to assess the situation on the ground, according to a United Nations spokesman. The mission will also formulate, with ONUSAL Chief Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo, the steps needed to address the apparent revival of death-squad activities, the non-implementation of many of the Truth Commission's recommendations, delays in implementing land and reinsertion programmes and problems with electoral registration.

The mission, headed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding, will arrive in the country on Monday and stay there until the following weekend, the spokesman said.

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The Security Council today decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for a period of six months, subject to the proviso that it would review the status of the mandate within 90 days, based on a report by the Secretary-General. In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report by 31 January 1994 and every three months thereafter on whether the parties have made sufficient and tangible progress towards implementing the General Peace Agreement and meeting the timetable for electoral and military developments, and also on the implementation of the mandate of UNOMOZ.

By unanimously adopting resolution 882 (1993), the Council also authorized the Secretary-General to proceed with the selection and deployment as soon as possible of the 128 United Nations police observers approved by resolution 797 (1992).

The Council commended the agreements reached between the President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, and the President of Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, during the Secretary-General's recent visit to Maputo, on outstanding issues that were impeding the peace process. It called on the Government and RENAMO to build on the progress

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which had been achieved and to respect fully all the provisions of the General Peace Agreement, in particular those concerning the cease-fire and the movement of troops.

While emphasizing the recent positive developments in the country's peace process, the Council stressed its concern with the continuing delays in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and urged the parties not to raise any further issues which might jeopardize its implementation, particularly in the light of commitments entered into during the Secretary-General's visit.

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The Security Council yesterday approved the continued presence until 31 January 1994 of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), comprising five military observers plus minimal support staff. The Mission will maintain contact with both sides of the conflict and military contingents of the Russian Federation, and will monitor and report on developments relevant to United Nations efforts for a comprehensive political settlement.

By unanimously adopting resolution 881 (1993), the Council decided that UNOMIG would not be extended beyond 31 January 1994 unless the Secretary-General reported that prolonging the mandate would serve the peace process. It asked the Secretary-General to report as appropriate, but not later than January 1994, on the activities of UNOMIG. It also asked him to take make plans enabling prompt deployment of additional personnel within the originally authorized strength of UNOMIG if the situation warranted it.

The Council welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, in cooperation with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the help of the Russian Federation as facilitator, to carry the peace process towards an overall political settlement, and in particular to bring both parties together later this month in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 totaling some $2,749 million, compared with a revised appropriation of $2,468 million for 1992-1993, United Nations Controller Yukio Takasu told correspondents at Headquarters today. He pointed out that most of the increase -- $256 million -- resulted from recosting for currency fluctuations and inflation, and that the proposed budget represented real growth of only 1 per cent -- $25 million.

The Secretary-General attached great importance to the budget, which was the first full one proposed by him and which reflected major changes brought about by the restructuring of the Secretariat, Mr. Takasu said. His priorities had been to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations in political and humanitarian affairs, to strengthen its contribution in the area of development cooperation and to increase administrative efficiency. The Secretary-General had made a maximum effort to handle the Organization's

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increasing workload with existing staff, but not everything could be achieved through redeployment. New resources were needed in the areas of peace-keeping operations, human rights, humanitarian affairs and political affairs.

Mr. Takasu stressed that the United Nations was still experiencing a serious financial crisis. As of the end of last month, unpaid contributions to the regular budget totaled $528 million. So far this year, only 66 Member States had paid their dues in full out of a Membership of 184, and 45 had paid nothing at all. The cash-flow situation had been very bad in August, but had improved in September and October because of payments made by certain States. The crisis meant that reimbursements to troop-contributing countries had been delayed for some months. He warned that the Organization would face serious problems unless substantial payments were received next month.

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To facilitate the return of refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Myanmar. The MOU stipulates that UNHCR will be given access to all returnees, that they will be issued appropriate identification papers and that they will enjoy the same freedom of movement as any other nationals. The returnees will be provided with household goods and building materials, and will receive food assistance for two months. To enhance their economic and social stability, community projects in agriculture, water and sanitation and education will be implemented, with the intention of also benefiting the surrounding population.

According to UNHCR, the repatriation programme will be maintained in close coordination with other United Nations agencies, to assure the continuum from relief to development. The Agency also said that it would be seeking financial support for the programme from the international community in the coming weeks.

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